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said surface of said solid support that hybridize to the same target nucleic acid strand to produce a complex made up of said target nucleic acid and 2 or more unique oligonucleotides.

6. (Amended) The array according to Claim 5, wherein each probe oligonucleotide spot in said pattern binds to a different target nucleic acid.

H3

7. (Amended) The array according to Claim 5, wherein two or more probe oligonucleotide spots in said pattern bind to the same target nucleic acid.

H4

13. (Amended) The array according to Claim 1, wherein all of said oligonucleotide spots bind to the same type of target nucleic acid.

H5

57. (Amended) An array comprising a pattern of probe oligonucleotide spots, wherein each probe oligonucleotide spot comprises an oligonucleotide probe composition consisting of a mixture of 3 to 50 unique oligonucleotides of different sequence and from about 15 to 150 nucleotides in length that are each attached to a surface of a solid support and hybridize to a different region of the same target nucleic acid strand to produce a complex made up of said target nucleic acid and 2 or more unique oligonucleotides.

H6

58. (Amended) An array comprising a pattern of probe oligonucleotide spots of a density that does not exceed about 400 spots/cm², wherein each probe oligonucleotide spot consists of a mixture of 3 to 20 unique oligonucleotides of different sequence and from about 25 to 100 nucleotides in length that are each attached to a surface of a solid support and hybridize to a different region of the same target nucleic acid strand to produce a complex made up of said target nucleic acid and 2 or more unique oligonucleotides.

H7

60. (Amended) An array comprising at least one pattern of probe oligonucleotide spots attached to a surface of a solid support, wherein each probe oligonucleotide spot consists of a mixture of a plurality of 2 or more unique oligonucleotides of different sequence that are each attached to said surface of said solid support and cooperatively hybridize to the same target

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nucleic acid strand to produce a complex made up of said target nucleic acid and 2 or more unique oligonucleotides.

H8

65. (Amended) The array according to Claim 64, wherein each probe oligonucleotide spot in said pattern binds to a different target nucleic acid.

H9

66. (Amended) The array according to Claim 64, wherein two or more probe oligonucleotide spots in said pattern bind to the same target nucleic acid.

REMARKS

In view of the amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections and allow Claims 1-17, 53, 57-59 and Claims 60 – 77, the only claims pending and currently under Examination in this application

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courteous and helpful interview that was held on March 27, 2002. During the interview, the above amendments were discussed in view of the cited Adams reference, and the Applicants' position with respect to why the reference fails to anticipate or render the claimed invention obvious was presented.

Claims 1, 57, 58 and 60 have been amended to clarify that each of the oligonucleotide probes hybridizes to the same target nucleic acid strand, i.e. the same single strand of a target nucleic acid and not to the different sense and antisense strands of a duplex nucleic acid. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification. Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached